

Alleged CIA Spy 'Guilty'

Egyptian Editor Gets Life Imprisonment

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Cairo—The State Security Court Saturday pronounced Mustafa Amin, one of Cairo's most prominent newspaper editors, guilty of spying for the United States Central Intelligence Agency and sentenced him to life imprisonment at hard labor.

The general who read the verdict against the 53-year-old editor and founder of the mass circulation newspaper Al Akhbar said it had already been reviewed and approved by Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Although neither the CIA nor the United States was mentioned in the verdict, within a few hours of its announcement the official Egyptian news agency released a lengthy report on Mr. Amin's alleged confessions of working as a CIA agent.

At the opening of his trial December 28, Mr. Amin pleaded innocent to the spy charges, though he admitted illegal currency operations. He repeated his claim of innocence Saturday after the verdict against him was read.

"Even the death sentence would not have made any difference, because I know I am innocent," Mr. Amin told the court in a calm voice. "I still insist on my innocence. I believe in my country. History will reveal the truth. I wish all the best for my country even though I am deprived of my own liberty."

Mr. Amin, for nearly three decades one of the dominating figures of Middle East journalism, was found guilty of two counts of illegally transferring abroad 46 thousand dollars in Egyptian currency.

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